

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 12 are amended and claims 10 and 11 are canceled. Support for the amendments can be found in original claims 10-11 and in the specification at page 3, lines 9-11; and Figure 1. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 are amended in light of the Examiner's comments.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9 and 11-12 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, the subject matter of claims 10-11 is incorporated into claim 1, and claims 10-11 are canceled.

Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-9 and 12 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Miyamoto et al. ("Miyamoto", US Patent 6,668,865). The Office Action further rejects claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Giebel et al. ("Giebel", US Patent 4,117,259). However, neither Miyamoto nor Giebel discloses every limitation of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection by incorporating the

allowable subject matter of claims 10-11 into independent claim 1, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claims 2-8 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

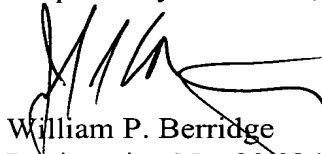
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:JLR/sxl
Date: July 10, 2008

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